

THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MULTILINGUAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE URAL STATE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS*

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В статье рассматривается создание и развитие полиязычной среды в Уральском государственном экономическом университете. На этот процесс влияют международные конференции, выставки, мероприятия, учеба по обмену, работа за границей. Авторы не только приводят примеры использования практики создания полиязычной среды в Уральском государственном экономическом университете, но и рассматривают причины, послужившие развитию этого процесса в мире и в УрГЭУ. Статья содержит ответы на следующие вопросы: каковы практики создания и развития полиязычной среды в Уральском государственном экономическом университете, чем обусловлен выбор УрГЭУ иностранными студентами.

К л ю ч е в ы е с л о в а: полиязычность, образование, глобализация, программы обмена, Центр тестирования иностранных граждан.

The paper deals with the creation and development of multilingual environment in the Ural State University of Economics. International conferences, exhibitions, meetings, study exchange, work abroad lead to it. The author does not only give examples of practices used to create multilingual environment, but also examines the reasons for the development of this process in the world and in the USUE. This paper answers the following questions: what are practices for the creation and development of multilingual environment at the Ural State University of Economics? Why do foreign students choose the USUE?

K e y w o r d s: multilingual environment, education, globalization, exchange educational programs, Testing Center for Foreign Citizens.

* Сохранены авторские стиль и написание на английском языке.

For centuries people have been trying to learn not only their native languages, but also foreign languages. It is impossible to imagine a country where only one language is studied and spoken. The process of globalization has led to the establishment and development of a multilingual environment.

A multilingual environment is increasingly developing; international conferences, exhibitions, meetings, study exchange, work abroad are leading to it.

The purpose of this paper is to show how a multilingual environment is developing at the Ural State University of Economics. To research this purpose it is necessary to decide the following tasks:

- How many languages do students learn at the USUE?
- How many foreign students study at the USUE?
- What educational practices and events can develop a multilingual environment?

The USUE is one of the leading universities of the Urals, paying a great attention to the development of international relations. The main task of the USUE is to establish friendly professional relations with representatives of universities of other countries.

The USUE has established contacts with the U. S. Embassy in Russia, the U. S. Consulate General in Yekaterinburg, the German academic exchange service and the missions of other countries. Also, our university has signed the interuniversity agreements with educational institutions of 38 countries, including the universities of Kazakhstan, Germany, Britain, China and South Korea. We have more than 100 treaties on international cooperation with educational institutions of 29 countries (among them Mexico, Ecuador, Benin, Congo, Egypt, Iraq, etc.). Twenty-three professors from the UK, France, Germany, the USA, the Czech Republic, China, Ecuador, Benin, Equatorial Guinea and other countries have the title «Honorary Professor of the USUE» [cm.: 1].

Since 2014 on the base of our university there has been a Testing Center for Foreign Citizens, allowing residents of foreign countries to improve their knowledge of the language, history and legislation of Russia, as well as to adapt to work and permanent residence in this country. The university also has Preparatory Department, teaching

the Russian language to foreign students and implementing programs to help them adapt to our life.

There is an opportunity to study several foreign languages at the USUE, for example, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, etc. Students choose the language, which they have studied early, or want to study.

In addition to academic courses, students can learn an optional foreign language. For example, the international educational center «Arena Multimedia» provides courses of foreign languages for students of different levels. «Arena Multimedia» is one of educational areas of the Aptech Corporation, a pioneer and leader in computer education, «having an extensive network of 3240 centers in 40 countries. As for the foreign language courses, their level corresponds to the scale of the common European framework of reference for languages (CEFR) and the system of Cambridge examinations (ESOL), organized by Cambridge University» [2]. At the end of the program you receive an international certificate confirming the level of language proficiency.

Also, the Association of foreign students conducts foreign language courses. The Association of foreign students is a public organization, whose main purpose is to promote mutual understanding between foreign students and public organizations, administrations of universities; strengthening friendship between people. A branch of this organization is located in Yekaterinburg at the USUE. You can improve your conversational language level studying with a native speaker – our foreign student. All the above courses are held at the Ural State University of Economics. More than 300 foreign students, undergraduates, postgraduates and doctoral students are studying at the USUE. Why have they chosen the USUE?

The matter is the USUE has established links with other foreign universities. Joint educational programs, research projects, scholarship program, give a chance not only to foreign students come to Russia, but also many Russian students go abroad.

In addition, the USUE is the organizational center of the Eurasian Economic Youth Forum (EEYF). The Eurasian Economic Youth Forum is a starting point for career and personal growth of young people in science,

project activities and entrepreneurship. For 6 years, «14500 participants from more than 70 countries and 55 regions of the Russian Federation have visited the forum» [3]. In the frame of EEYF there have been conducted various workshops, lectures, discussions, exhibitions, round tables.

Another youth movement, influencing the development of multilingual environment, is WorldSkills International. The USUE acts traditionally as one of the organizers of the WorldSkills movement in the Sverdlovsk region. The university is responsible for the business program of the championship. Due to the fact that the university is positioning itself as a university with a great emphasis on the communication of young people in the Eurasian economic space, it holds different foresight sessions and conferences.

In conclusion, the USUE is an educational place where every student can develop himself as a person. The university gives students a chance to study foreign languages and practise them communicating with foreigners in class and at different university events, all the above contributing to the development of a multilingual environment not only at the USUE, but also in Yekaterinburg and in Russia.

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